

CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES (CHEPS)

SDSU
College of
Arts and Letters

2023-2024 MID-YEAR REPORT



SUMMER & FALL 2023

*NEW FRONTIERS IN APPLIED MICROECONOMICS &
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS*



CHEPS Mission

The Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) is an interdisciplinary research center conducting impactful, policy relevant scholarship in health economics, labor economics, law & economics, and social policy analysis. Housed in the College of Arts & Letters at San Diego State University, CHEPS brings together faculty and graduate students engaged in complementary research in the areas of health policy, the economics of national defense, economic demography, the economics of crime, and the economics of risky behaviors. Thanks to support from the National Institutes of Health, the Drug Enforcement & Policy Center (at The Ohio State University), the Charles Koch Foundation and San Diego State University, the Summer and Fall Semesters of 2023, the Center had a highly productive research period and our students continued a strong trajectory of professional growth.



Spotlight on Mid-Year (SU 2023, AY 2023-24) Accomplishments

- **Hosted 12 research seminars in applied economics and public policy** with leading applied microeconomists from such institutions as Brown University, University of California Davis, University of Missouri, University of Tennessee, University of Pittsburgh, University of Toronto, The Ohio State University, Texas A&M University, Michigan State University, the University of Central Florida, University of California San Diego, and the University of Notre Dame. *Weekly attendance at these research seminars, which occurred in hybrid fashion (both in-person and via Zoom) ranged from approximately 25 to 50 graduate and undergraduate students and faculty. Students were given dedicated meeting time with visitors for research mentoring, networking, and advice on doctoral applications.*
- **Awarded 5 graduate and postgraduate student research fellowships**, each of which generated public policy-oriented, high impact research projects in applied microeconomics.
- **Produced Center research papers on the intended and unintended effects of recreational marijuana laws (2) that were excerpted as policy briefs released by the Cato Institute; a Center working paper on gun buyback programs continued to receive media coverage nationwide.**
- **Received 24 acceptances & revise-and-resubmits on articles** in peer-reviewed journals including *Journal of Population Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis & Management*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, and *Journal of Health Economics*.
- **Presented research at conferences and workshops.** This included presentations at meetings of the Southern Economic Association, the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management, the European Society of Population Economics, the Economics of Risky Behaviors Workshop, the American Society of Health Economists, the European Law and Economics Association and the Society of Economics of the Household. Research also presented at seminars at UCLA, the University of Sydney, and St. Louis University.
- **Progressed on over two dozen research projects** including but not limited to: (1) the effects of in-person schooling on juvenile violence, (2) the spillover effects of e-cigarette taxes on marijuana and harder drug use, (3) the impacts of minimum wage laws on welfare dependence, and (4) the effects of recreational marijuana laws on racial disparities, labor market outcomes, and workplace injuries.

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Please learn more about CHEPS at our website: cheps.sdsu.edu

Welcome from the Director

The Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) is an interdisciplinary research center that supports impactful, policy relevant scholarship in the areas of health economics and social policy analysis. Housed in the College of Arts & Letters, CHEPS brings together faculty and graduate students engaged in complementary research in the areas of national defense policy, economic demography, the economics of crime and punishment, and the economics of risky health behaviors. [Read more>>>](#)



Read the [CHEPS Magazine 2023](#) and [Mid-Year Report 2022-2023](#)

Past issues of the magazine: [2022](#) | [2021](#) | [2020](#) | [2019](#) | [2018](#)

CHEPS Pioneering Research



[Recreational Marijuana Laws and Racial Disparities: Evidence from Criminal Arrests, Psychological Health, and Mortality](#)



[Leadership & Gender Composition in Managerial Positions: Evidence from the Brazilian Public Sector](#)



[Follow Thy Neighbor: The Role of First Exporters](#)



[Preferential Liberalization: China's Foreign Investment: Regulation Reform and its Post-WTO-Accession Export Surge](#)



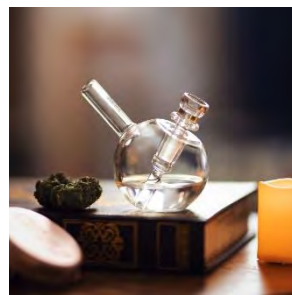
HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW WORKING PAPERS

How Do E-Cigarette Taxes Affect Marijuana and Harder Drug Use?



The opening of legal markets for electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and marijuana has dramatically increased access to these substances in the United States. Along with the immediate pleasure-related utility generated from recreational consumption of e-cigarettes and marijuana, their use may also generate health benefits. Increased access to electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) has been found to curb combustible tobacco product use, which may be an effective tobacco harm-reducing strategy. Marijuana use may allow consumers to treat a variety of painful symptoms associated with chronic and acute health ailments and has been documented to induce substitution away from other potentially more harmful health behaviors such as problem drinking and opioid misuse.

Despite these potential benefits, public health advocates worry that increased access to ENDS may renormalize smoking and have unintended “gateway” effects on marijuana and other substance use that adversely affect health. For instance, frequent and heavier marijuana use has been found to increase the risk of respiratory disease. Moreover, joint consumption of ENDS and marijuana products during the 2019-2020 “e-cigarette, or vaping, product use associated lung injury” (EVALI) outbreak was responsible for 68 deaths and nearly 3,000 hospitalizations for severe respiratory problems. Many of these injuries occurred to youths, who often jointly consume marijuana and ENDS, sometimes with the same vaping device.



Early initiation of marijuana use has been linked to diminished neuro-psychological and neuro-developmental function, increased risk of psychotic disorders, and increased risk of suicide behaviors. Because the brain continues to develop through one’s early 20s, substance use during this developmental stage may persistently damage longer-run cognition and adversely affect outcomes that rely on these regions of the brain for functioning. In addition, early initiation into marijuana use more than triples the risk for cannabis use disorder, a chronic and costly condition affecting over 16 million Americans and could increase the risk of harder drug use. This project, jointly authored by Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, Catherine Maclean, Caterina Muratori, and Joe Sabia will use data from the State and National Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and the Treatment Episode Dataset to explore the effects of ENDS taxes on marijuana and harder drug use.

Protection from Appearance-Based Bullying: Anti-Bullying Laws and Mental Health of Overweight Teens



A new working paper — co-authored by Brandyn Churchill, Bijesh Gyawali (both of UMass-Amherst) and Joe Sabia, and presented by Bijesh at this year's Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) conference — explores the important topic of appearance-based bullying among teens. The authors study the impact of state anti-bullying laws (ABLs) on the psychological well-being of overweight and obese U.S. high school students. Overweight and obese students experience both higher rates of suicidal behaviors and higher rates of bullying victimization relative to their healthy-weight counterparts. Could the link between bullying victimization and suicidal behaviors be causal and driven by vulnerable overweight and obese teens?

Employing data from the 1999-2021 National and State Youth Risk Behavior Surveys and a differences-in-differences approach, the study finds that the adoption of ABLs is associated with a 0.6-1.2 percentage point decline in suicidal behaviors among overweight teens. They also find a concentration of the largest responses on the most severe outcomes, indicating that overweight teens, particularly girls, are at the greatest risk for suicidal behaviors and are most likely to benefit from ABLs.

Drug Testing Laws and TANF Participation

In the last decade, numerous states began requiring those applying for and/or receiving cash assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to undergo screening for the possibility of illicit substance use and, dependent on screening results, chemical drug testing. Currently, seventeen states require drug testing for welfare. In ten other states, drug tests are permitted for applicants with a history or suspicion of drug use. Joe Sabia and Caterina Muratori are exploring the effect of drug testing requirements for TANF on program participation. Using data from the 2002-2021 March Current Population Survey and a difference-in-differences approach, preliminary estimates show that the introduction of drug testing law has a negative effect on TANF participation among low-educated single mothers.



In-Person Schooling and Juvenile Violence



A new working paper co-authored by Benjamin Hansen, Kyutaro Matsuzawa, and Joe Sabia investigates the impact of in-person schooling on juvenile violence. In-person schooling may reduce juvenile violence through an “incapacitation” effect, whereby time spent in academic and extracurricular activities crowds out less purposeful time that may lead to violence. Juvenile

violence may also fall in response to in-person schooling due to increases in human capital acquisition and from increased monitoring by school staff and faculty. On the other hand, juvenile violence may rise in response to in-person schooling if there is a “concentration” effect whereby increases in (negative) peer interactions generate violence.

The authors use data from various national sources, including the Uniform Crime Reports, National Incident-Based Reporting System, the National Crime Victimization Survey, and the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. The latter two datasets allow the authors to disentangle reporting effects from violent behavior effects. The study employs a range of identification strategies, including (1) national seasonal trends analysis, (2) leveraging pre-pandemic differences in school start and end dates, and (3) county-level variation in school calendars during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors also make clever use of anonymized smartphone data as a proxy for in-person schooling.

The authors find that in-person elementary and secondary (K-12) schooling is associated with a 28 percent increase in juvenile violence. The effects are largest for simple and aggravated assaults. In contrast, there is no evidence that in-person K-12 schooling affects violent crime among young adults aged 19-24 or property crime among juveniles. Juvenile violent crime effects are more pronounced in larger schools and jurisdictions with weaker anti-bullying policies, suggesting concentration effects and a peer quality channel. Back-of-the-envelope estimates suggest that in-person schooling generates approximately \$233 million in monthly violent crime costs compared to closed K-12 schools.

Does Robotics Diffusion Cause Crime?

Evidence from Industry-Specific Technological Shocks

Automation and artificial intelligence advancements have resulted in significant productivity gains for society, and in the past two decades since 2000 there has been a trend of increasing use of robots in manufacturing. Unlike their human labor counterparts, robots are more accurate, precise, and do not get tired. Motivated by the potential consequences of substituting laborers with robots — such as decreased employment and earnings, heightened incentives for illegal income, and the possibility of disgruntled workers resorting to criminal activities — Mark Anderson, Yang Liang, and Joe Sabia estimate the impact of robotics expansions on adult crime rates in the United States.



The researchers examine the period 1993-2010, obtain arrest data from the 1993-2010 Uniform Crime Report (UCR), and obtain industry-by-year data on European and American robots from the International Federation of Robots (IFR). The authors use a natural experiment (IV) to identify the causal effect of U.S. robotics expansion on arrests: the experiment relies on the conditional exogeneity of industry-specific robotics rollout in the European Union interacted with U.S. county-level pre-treatment industrial composition.

Reduced form two-way-fixed effects estimates show that EU robotics penetration is associated with an increase in property crime arrests, consistent with the hypothesis that robotics-induced employment losses (particularly in manufacturing) increase the payoff from illicit activities, particularly for income-generating purposes. Event-study analyses are consistent with the parallel trends assumption holding.

Next, turning to IV estimates, the study's principal finding shows that one-robot-per-thousand-worker increase is associated with a 4%-6% increase in property crime arrests, but no change in violent crime arrests. These results are consistent with the reduced form event study results described above. The magnitude of this property crime effect is consistent with arrest elasticities with respect to employment and wages (reported in the literature) and with employment and wage elasticities with respect to U.S. robotics expansions, as reported by Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020). The authors conclude that while there are likely longer-run productive efficiency gains of robotics, there are shorter-run external costs borne by communities whose workers are disemployed by robots.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

“In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicides: Evidence from School Calendars and Pandemic Era School Closings”

(Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*)



This paper investigates the surprising relationship between in-person schooling and youth suicide rates, utilizing National Vital Statistics System data from 1990-2019 and insights from the unique context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The key focus: why and what causes the seasonal pattern where teen suicides peak during the school year and decline in summer? Regional disparities were also evident; areas starting in August experienced elevated suicides earlier, unlike

those commencing in September which experienced the suicides rate hike later. This pattern does not hold true for those aged 19 and older.

Benjamin Hansen, Jessamyn Schaller, and Joseph J. Sabia build on the original findings of Hansen and Lang (2011) by extending the data through to the era of the COVID-19 pandemic. Leveraging this unique context, the study explores the deviations from the established pattern of teen suicide rates declining during the summer and increasing again in the fall, by revealing a significant decline in teen suicides during the initial pandemic months, and a subsequent increase in youth suicides following the reintroduction of in-person schooling in the fall of 2020.

Going deeper, the authors use anonymized SafeGraph smartphone geolocation data to proxy the transition from online to in-person schooling by analyzing school grounds foot traffic. The findings are striking—a 12-to-18 percent increase in teen suicides associated with this transition, persisting even after a full suite of robustness checks including rigorous controls for seasonal effects, lockdown impacts, and falsification tests. And, to explore potential mechanisms, the authors use Google Trends queries and insights from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to explain the role of bullying victimization. Despite compelling findings, the study reminds us of the enduring educational benefits, cautioning against interpreting results as an endorsement for widespread school closures. It emphasizes future policy considerations and calls for research, advocating for improved access to mental health care and strategies to address bullying.

“The Effect of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings”

(Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Population Economics*)



A National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) working paper, by Dhaval M. Dave, Catherine MacLean, Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori, and Joseph J. Sabia, is the first to explore the impacts of recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) on employment and wages. Difference-in-differences estimates show little evidence that RMLs adversely affect labor market outcomes among most working-age individuals. Rather, estimates show that RML

adoption is associated with an increase in agricultural employment, consistent with the opening of a new licit market.

“Anti-Bullying Laws and Youth Risky Health Behaviors”

(Revise & Resubmit, *Journal of Population Economics*)

This CHEPS study provides new evidence on the effect of anti-bullying laws (ABLs) on youth risky health behaviors. Using data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and a generalized difference- in-differences approach, the study finds little evidence that ABL adoption leads to statistically significant or economically meaningful reductions in binge drinking, tobacco use, marijuana use, risky sex, or body weight for the average teenager. However, for some historically marginalized youth — particularly those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or questioning (LGBQ) — estimates show some evidence of ABL-induced improvements in behavioral health, especially with respect to heavier drinking.



“Is TRAP a Trap? The Impact of Abortion Access on Violence Against Women”

(Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Human Resources)



Caterina Muratori's Job Market Paper evaluates the impact of abortion clinic closures on violence against women of reproductive age exploiting variation induced by a law that caused the closure of nearly half of Texas' clinics. A 25-mile increase in distance to reach the nearest clinic is estimated to increase the number of violent offenses by up to 1.9 percent and the effect persists after one year. The impact decreases as the initial distance from a clinic rises. The effect of distance on violence is higher for

Hispanic women and it more than doubles for Black women.

“Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities”

(Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Public Economics)

The NBER Working Paper from researchers Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, Catherine Maclean, Joseph Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma explores the spillover effects of e-cigarette taxes on teenage drinking and alcohol-related traffic fatalities, offering a comprehensive examination of the interplay between e-cigarette use and alcohol misuse among teenagers. The authors emphasize the broad societal costs associated with teenage drinking, estimated to exceed over \$28 billion annually, as well as alcohol-related traffic fatalities. Employing data from five nationally representative datasets spanning 2003-2019 and using a difference-in-differences approach, the study reveals that a one-dollar increase in e-cigarette taxes is linked to a 1-to-2 percentage-point reduction in the probability of teenage binge drinking. Furthermore, a decrease of 0.4 to 0.6 in the number of alcohol-related traffic fatalities per 100,000 16-to-20-year-olds is observed in states per one-dollar increase in e-cigarette taxes.



Post-9/11 War Deployments Increased Prescription Painkiller Abuse Among Veterans

(Revise and Resubmit, Health Economics)

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, President George W. Bush launched the War on Terrorism, which saw 5.4 million deployments of nearly 2.8 million U.S. servicemembers to Iraq and Afghanistan. Resul Cesur, David Bradford, and Joe Sabia explore whether these war deployments created an opioid epidemic among veterans.

War deployments could have increased the risk of opioid abuse among veterans for several reasons. First, war injury-induced chronic pain among post-9/11 veterans led to a sharp increase in opioid prescribing — often with lax monitoring by Veterans Health Administration (VHA) providers — which may have increased dependence and abuse. Moreover, combat-induced psychological trauma, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), may exacerbate the risk of opioid abuse. In addition, the growth of veterans' disability compensation benefits may have increased labor market idleness among veterans, which could be an important contributing factor to opioid abuse. Finally, on the supply side, exposure to cheap opium during deployments to Afghanistan may have increased the risk of veteran opioid dependence.

The U.S. Department of Defense has speculated that “[opioid abuse] may relate to deployment effects, such as injuries, combat exposure, and mental health conditions.” This is based, in part, on descriptive evidence from the medical and public health literatures suggesting that post-9/11 military service is associated with opioid abuse among veterans. However, there is very little causal evidence on the impact of combat deployments on opioid abuse. This study is the first in economics literature to present such evidence. This article also contributes to the broader literature in economics studying the implications of deployments and armed combat exposure on the wellbeing of US service members.

The authors exploit a quasi-experiment in the combat assignments of active-duty U.S. military servicemen to identify the causal impact of combat service on opioid abuse in 2007-2008. The results provide consistent evidence that combat assignment substantially increases the risks of prescription painkiller abuse and illicit heroin use. This effect is driven by those exposed to enemy firefight during combat deployments and cannot be fully explained by addiction among those prescribed opioids to treat war injuries. The magnitudes of our estimates imply lower-bound combat exposure-induced healthcare costs to the Department of Veterans Affairs of \$1.07 billion per year to treat prescription opioid abuse and \$485 million per year to treat heroin use. These costs exclude non-health costs as well as the costs of increased opioid-related mortality. Descriptive evidence suggests that combat-related physical injuries, which may have resulted in initially legitimate opioid prescriptions, as well as war-related psychological trauma, are primary mechanisms at work.

“Do Recreational Marijuana Laws Reduce Racial Disparities in Arrests and Health?” *(Under Review)*

Zach Fone, Gokhan Kumpas, and Joseph J. Sabia study how enactment of recreational marijuana laws (RMLs) affects racial minorities in the scope of both crime and health outcomes. Racial bias in law enforcement is both a major public policy concern and a contentious political issue in the United States. Policing reforms that are most likely to reduce disparities in arrests without unintentionally incentivizing criminal offenses with large social costs are viewed most



favorably by policymakers. Among the most high-profile policing reforms include greater monitoring of interactions between suspects and law enforcement officials, greater racial diversity in police hiring, improved community policing, and increased investments in diversity training. In addition, criminal justice reformers have pursued the decriminalization (or depenalization) of non-violent criminal offenses, including laws surrounding marijuana use, with historically large racial disparities in arrests.

Following Colorado and Washington adopting RMLs in January 2012, and through October 2023, 21 other states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) have adopted legalization. RMLs legalize possession of a limited amount of marijuana (e.g., one or two ounces) by anyone 21 years of age or older. Purchases of marijuana can be made at recreational dispensaries simply by showing proof of age. Unlike most medical marijuana laws (MMLs), RMLs do not require registration (often on a state electronic database) nor do they require a doctor’s recommendation to treat “allowable medical conditions”, like chronic pain, epilepsy, and cancer. Nearly all states with an RML permit home cultivation, that is, marijuana to be grown at home.

Proponents of RMLs claim that ending the prohibition on recreational marijuana can generate substantial social cost savings, as the annual costs associated with enforcing prohibition — including policing, court, and prison costs — total \$3.6 billion annually. In addition, they argue that legalization can also serve important racial equity-related ends given substantial racial disparities in enforcement of marijuana prohibition. Despite comparable marijuana usage rates, Blacks are 3.6 times more likely than Whites to be arrested for marijuana-related offenses. They are also far more likely to be incarcerated for marijuana-related offenses. The majority of marijuana-related arrests (among those of all races and ethnicities) are for non-violent offenses. Marijuana arrests tend to be for street-level drug

dealing and transport of small quantities of drugs for transactions. Less than a third of such arrests are related to higher-level offenses such as distribution of large quantities of drugs to dealers.

Having a criminal arrest record (including for a non-violent offense) generates substantial labor market penalties, which could exacerbate (1) racial/ethnic disparities in employment and earnings, and (2) the risk of recidivism. Thus, the adoption of RMLs could generate important longer-run economic benefits, particularly for those who have been disproportionately harmed by prohibition. This study is the first to measure the impact of RML adoption on race-specific arrests and finds that that RML adoption is associated with a 2.1 per 1,000-person greater reduction in marijuana-related arrests among Black as compared to White adults, though it has a negligible impact on arrests of Blacks relative to Whites. This study is also the first to explore racial disparities in psychiatric health-related outcomes; it examines whether the potential benefits of RMLs extends to opioid-related mortalities, as non-Hispanic white males are known to be a population at the center of the U.S. opioid epidemic.

The authors thank the Drug Enforcement and Policy Center at The Ohio State University and CHEPS for their support for our research. They also thank participants at the 2023 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) meeting in Atlanta, Georgia for useful comments and suggestions to improve the paper.



RESEARCH UPDATES FROM CHEPS AFFILIATES



Audrey Beck, Associate Professor of Sociology, SDSU

Publication: Lansing, A. E., Park, J., & Beck, A.N. (2023). Cumulative Trauma, Adversity and Loss among Juvenile Justice Involved Girls: Implications for Health Disparities. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. Volume 00, 1-16. <http://doi.org/10.1002/jts.22981> (IF=1.56)

Abstract:

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are social determinants of health that increase morbidity and mortality and are prevalent among juvenile justice-involved (JJI) youth. ACEs drive health-risk behaviors (e.g., substance use) that reflect maladaptive coping, increase arrest risk, and overlap with posttraumatic risk-seeking theoretically and reckless/self-destructive behaviors diagnostically. However, little is known, especially among girls, about cumulative developmental adversity burden distress (i.e., total cumulative/lifespan stressor reactivity, grief-specific and adversity-related symptoms, and adversity-driven maladaptive coping strategies by age 18) and associated health risk impacts. Therefore, we assessed (a) developmental adversity burden indicators capturing expanded ACEs (E-ACEs; reflecting cumulative losses and traumatic events), cumulative distress, and risk characteristics; (b) potential racial/ethnic differences in developmental adversity burden; and (c) predictors of maladaptive coping among 223 JJI girls. Participants averaged 15 E-ACEs, endorsing 61.0% of stressor reactivity reactions, 58.4% of cumulative grief-specific symptoms, 55.7% (avoidance) to 73.2% (arousal) of adversity-related symptoms, and 45.0% of adversity-driven maladaptive coping strategies. White JJI girls endorsed significantly higher stressor reactivity and maladaptive coping than Latina girls (e.g., 38.8% vs. 14.6% suicide attempts), $d_s = 0.56\text{--}0.71$. Adaptive LASSO analyses of maladaptive coping highlighted primary contributions from stressor reactivity, arousal alterations (excluding reckless/self-destructive behaviors), and cognition/mood alterations but not E-ACEs, grief, avoidance, or intrusions. Participants reported high levels of all cumulative developmental adversity burden indicators (e.g., 81.6% reported reckless/self-destructive behaviors). Results support cumulative, adversity-informed, universal precautions and assessments. Further, emotion regulation interventions targeting stressor reactivity, cognition/mood alterations, and/or arousal alterations may be useful for JJI youth with maladaptive coping.

Conference Presentation:

June 2023. “Gentrification’s Association with Racial/Ethnic-Segregation, Income Segregation, and Income Inequality in the United States. International Sociological Association, RC-28 Meeting. Melbourne, AUS. Poster.



Hao Fe, Assistant Professor of Economics, SDSU

Working Paper: "The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence: Exploring the Hidden Costs on Urban Businesses" (joint with Viviane Sanfelice)

Abstract:

High-profile shootings in the United States have raised concerns about their impact on society. While research has examined the various consequences of mass shootings, limited attention has been given to their immediate and localized effects on urban businesses. This study investigates the effect of mass shootings on local foot traffic and consumer expenditure for service-related establishments surrounding the incidents. Using a fine-grained dataset linking mass shooting incidents to consumer visit and transaction data, we implement a nonparametric differences-in-differences approach to explore how the impacts vary with distance from the shooting site and the time since the shooting occurrence. We find that consumers react significantly to mass shootings located in areas predominantly inhabited by Black and Hispanic. However, the nature of these responses varies depending on the perception of safety, as indicated by the presence or absence of a clear target in the incident. In particular, mass shootings without clear targets in high minority neighborhoods lead to an immediate 13% decline in foot traffic within a 0.1-mile radius of the shooting site, corresponding to a 64% decrease in transaction value. The effects diminish beyond 0.6 miles from the shooting site or for time periods exceeding 35 days post-incident. These findings provide insights into the development of targeted strategies by policymakers and business owners for geographic areas affected by these tragic events.

Conference Presentation:

Western Economic Association International and Urbans Economic Association Conferences



Zach Fone, Assistant Professor of Economics, U.S. Air Force Academy

Working paper: "Aim High: The Impacts of Marijuana Legalization on Air Force Recruitment, Disciplinary Actions, and Drug Use"

Conference presentation: (both with above paper):

SEA annual meetings (Nov 2023)

CU Boulder Applied Microeconomics Workshop (August 2023)



Toshio Ferrazares, Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, UCSB



Media Attention: Cited in a policy brief by the Cato Institute, an American thinktank headquartered in Washington, D.C., for his joint research with Mark Anderson and Joseph. J. Sabia on the ineffectiveness of U.S. gun buyback programs in

reducing gun violence.



Shoshana Grossbard, Professor Emerita, SDSU

Publication: “Women, Economics, and Household Economics: The Relevance of Workshops founded by Nobel Laureate Gary Becker, and of Jacob Mincer.” (with Andrea H. Beller, Ana Fava and Marouane Idmansour). *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* (forthcoming).

Abstract:

In the period 1960-1980 Gary Becker founded workshops for graduate students in economics, first the Labor Workshop at Columbia University and then the Applications of Economics Workshop at the University of Chicago. The workshops fostered novel applications of economics dealing with labor, consumption, household production, household formation, human capital, crime and politics. We document the high proportion of women in these workshops, comparing (1) Columbia to Chicago, (2) the Columbia Labor Workshop over various periods, under the leadership of Becker, Mincer, or both, and (3) the Becker-founded workshops to other workshops at Columbia. We estimate regressions of the odds that a PhD was awarded to a woman for students at Columbia or Chicago who graduated between 1960 and 1980, as a function of whether and when the student participated in a Becker-founded workshop. Tentative explanations are offered for inter-university and period variation in odds that graduates were women. In addition, we compare gender ratios of graduates from Columbia and Chicago, where Becker-founded workshops were available during all or part of the period, with that of students at universities located nearby, NYU and Northwestern, where Becker did not found workshops.



Brandy Lipton, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management, UC-Irvine

Working Paper: "School-based health centers, access to care, and income-based disparities"

Abstract:

School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are primary care clinics co-located at schools. SBHCs have the potential to improve health care access and reduce disparities, but there is limited rigorous evidence on their effectiveness at the national level. To determine whether county-level adoption of SBHCs was associated with access, utilization, and health among low-income children and to measure reductions in income-based disparities, this survey study used a difference-in-differences design and data from a nationally representative sample of children in the United States merged with SBHC indicators from the National Census of School-Based Health Centers. The main sample included 5-17 year-olds with family incomes that were less than 200% of the federal poverty level observed in the 1997-2018 National Health Interview Survey. The sample was restricted to children living in a county that adopted a center between 2003 and 2013 or that did not have a center at any time during the study period. Outcomes included access (usual source of care, insurance status, barriers), ambulatory care use (general physician, eye doctor, dental, mental health visits), and health (general health status, missed school days due to illness). In this survey-based study with difference-in-differences analysis of SBHC adoption, SBHCs were associated with access to care and reduced income-based disparities. These findings support additional SBHC expansion.

Grants:

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR), Impact of Medicaid Pregnancy Dental Benefits on Dental Care Access among Pregnant People and Young Children (R01). Lipton (PI). Status: Pending funding decision. Score: 5th percentile.



Caterina Muratori, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies

Media Attention:



Cited in a policy brief by the Cato Institute for her joint research with Dhaval Dave, Yang Liang, and Joe Sabia on the effects of recreational marijuana laws on labor market outcomes.



Thanh Tam Nguyen, Ph.D., Economics, University of New

Job Market Paper:

Abstract:

Despite rising spending on care, the U.S. performs poorly on various indicators of infant and maternal health. Between 2006 and 2019, 27 states adopted value-based payment models targeting childbirth in their Medicaid programs. These policies are all designed to increase the quality of maternal care for Medicaid beneficiaries and, in some cases, reduce spending, but their designs vary substantially. States that adopted payment reform used one or more of four models: (i) nonpayment for early elective deliveries (both C-sections and early induction), (ii) a single blended payment for Caesarean and vaginal deliveries, (iii) pay-for-performance bonuses for quality metrics, and (iv) bundled payments. Using cross-sectional data drawn from the 2007-2019 Natality Detail Files and a staggered difference-in-differences model, we find that nonpayment policies are associated with a 6.9 percent decrease in early elective delivery for mothers ages 15-to-44 with no college degree, which results in a 2.6 percent decrease in early term birth and a 1.6 percent increase in high birthweight, but no change in other infant health outcomes. Pay-for-performance programs are associated with a 1.3 percent reduction in the probability of a Caesarean section but no change in infant health. Policymakers may consider alternative payment models as a tool to discourage risky, low-value procedures and perhaps reduce costs.



Jake Penglase, Assistant Professor of Economics, SDSU

Working Paper:

"The Multidimensional Nature of Women's Power: Measurement and Prediction"

Abstract:

Measuring women's empowerment within the household is challenging due to its multidimensional nature and data limitations inherent to observing a couple's decision-making process. We evaluate the ability of several commonly used, self-reported survey modules of women's empowerment to predict relative welfare within the household. Using data from married men and women in Bangladesh, and three machine learning algorithms, we find these survey questions have low predictive power. We rationalize our results by setting out a conceptual framework that highlights the multidimensional nature of women's empowerment.



This Semester's Publications

Between May 2023 and December 2023, the Center reports production of 24 research publications, including accepted peer-reviewed publications, conditional accepts/revise-and-resubmits, and National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Working Papers under review:



Alotaibi, Fawaz, Dhaval Dave, Daniel Rees, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "The Effects of Recreational Marijuana Laws on Drug Use and Crime," Conditional Acceptance, *Journal of Public Economics*.

Anderson, D. Mark, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "Mandatory Seatbelt Laws and Traffic Fatalities: A Reassessment," NBER Working Paper No. 30851. Forthcoming, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Arnold ML, Heslin BJ, Dowdy M, Kershner SP, Phillips S, Lipton BJ, Pesko MF. Longitudinal policy surveillance of private insurance hearing aid mandates in the US, 1997-2022. Accepted, *American Journal of Public Health*.

Beller, Andrea H., Ana Fava, Shoshana Grossbard, and Marouane Idmansour. 2023. "Women, Economics, and Household Economics: The Relevance of Workshops founded by Nobel Laureate Gary Becker, and of Jacob Mincer," Forthcoming, *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*.

Boudreaux M, Chu J*, Lipton BJ. 2023. School-based health centers, access to care, and income-based disparities. *JAMA Network Open* 6(9): e2334532.

Bryan, Cal, Drew McNichols, Ben Hansen, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "Do Tobacco 21 Laws Work?" Conditional Acceptance, *Journal of Health Economics*.



Caetano, Carolina, Gregorio Caetano, Hao Fe, and Eric Nielsen. 2023. "A Dummy Test of Identification in Models with Bunching," *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Applied Econometrics*.

Calvi, Rossella, Jacob Penglase, Denni Tommasi, and Alexander Wolf. 2023. "The More the Poorer? Resource Sharing and Scale Economies in Large Families," *Journal of Development Economics*.

Dave, Dhaval M., Johanna Catherine Maclean, Yang Liang, Joseph J. Sabia, and Matthew Braaksma. 2023. "Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence from E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities," NBER Working Paper No. 30670. *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Public Economics*.



Dave, Dhaval M., Yang Liang, Caterina Muratori and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "The Effect of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings," NBER Working Paper No. 30813. *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Population Economics*

Gibbons, J., Beck, A. N., Thomas, K. & Finch, B.K. "Patterns of Force: The Relationship Between Officer-Involved Homicides of Black and Hispanic Citizens and Metropolitan Residential Segregation." *Revise and Resubmit*.

Hansen, Benjamin, Jessamyn Schaller, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicides: Evidence from School Calendars and Pandemic Era School Closings," *Forthcoming, Journal of Human Resources*.



Lansing, A. E., Park, J., & **Beck, A.N.** (2023). Cumulative Trauma, Adversity and Loss among Juvenile Justice Involved Girls: Implications for Health Disparities. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*. Volume 00, 1-16. <http://doi.org/10.1002/jts.22981> (IF=1.56)

Li, Ling, and Yang Liang. 2023. "Can Exports Be Pain Relievers? The Effect of Exports on Workplace Safety and Health," *Revise & Resubmit, Review of International Economics*.

Lipton BJ, Garcia JG, Boudreaux MH, Azatyan P, McInerney M. Most state Medicaid programs cover routine eye exams for adults, but coverage of other routine vision services varies. *Revise and Resubmit, Health Affairs*.

Lipton BJ, Pesko MF. State telemedicine coverage requirement and telemedicine use, 2013-2019. *Forthcoming, Health Services Research*.



Matsuzawa, Kyutaro. 2023. "The Deterrent Effect of Targeted and Salient Police Enforcement: Evidence from DUI Checkpoint Bans," *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Law and Economics*.

Muratori, Caterina, and Joseph J. Sabia. 2023. "Anti-Bullying Laws and Youth Risky Health Behaviors," *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Population Economics*.

Muratori, Caterina. 2023. "Is TRAP a Trap? The Impact of Abortion Access on Violence Against Women," *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Human Resources*.

Sabia, Joseph J., and Bill Skimmyhorn. 2023. "How Do Combat Deployments Affect Veterans' Health and Labor Market Outcomes? Evidence from the U.S. Army," *Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Human Resources*.

Stitt B*, Finlayson T, Lipton BJ. Aging out of dependent coverage and health insurance trends, 2014-2019. *Forthcoming, Academic Pediatrics*.

Yang, R., Beck, A.N., & Lansing, A. E. "Examining Sexual Abuse, Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and Cumulative Adversity among Sexually-Diverse Girls in the Juvenile Justice System." *Revise and Resubmit*.



FALL 2023 RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES



During the 2023 Fall semester, CHEPS hosted 12 economists presenting scholarly research on various sub-fields, including labor, health, developmental, demography, crime, trade, and historical economics. These external speakers come from a variety of different research institutions and universities, including the University of Central Florida, University of California, San Diego, Brown University, University of California Davis, University of Missouri, University of Tennessee, University of Pittsburgh, University of Toronto, Ohio State University, Texas A&M University, Michigan State University, and the University of Notre Dame. Zoom options were also available for in-person seminars, allowing the opportunity for all who wished to attend. The weekly seminars were attended by CHEPS affiliates, professors across disciplines, both undergraduate and graduate students, and even those from other schools in San Diego. The virtual component of the seminars allowed students and academics from institutions nationwide to attend, including many co-authors and leading scholars in their fields. Additionally, the seminars served to introduce students to a variety of research interests and allowed professors affiliated with CHEPS to network with faculty from other universities.

Importantly, presenters met with CHEPS affiliates and RAs in small 1-on-1 sessions to discuss their research and academic experience. For the affiliates, they had the opportunity to meet with seminar speakers to discuss their current and future research and solicit advice on how to best progress through their programs. For the RAs, speakers discussed the relative quality of various economics and public policy Ph.D. programs with students and advised on how to stand out among the growing fields of applicants and how to find the best match for their own interests. The Fall 2023 Seminar Series offered an invaluable experience for both faculty and students to be exposed to several novel research projects. Thank you all for attending, we encourage you to continue doing so for our Spring 2024 Seminar Series! Below are summaries of the research from the weekly presentations.

“Little Divergence in America: Market Access and Demographic Transition in the United States”

Dr. Melanie Guldi (University of Central Florida)

To begin our Fall 2023 seminar series, Dr. Melanie Guldi investigates the causal relationship between increased market access and demographic transition in the United States during the latter half of the 19th century. The authors construct novel measures of fertility changes and railroad access at the county level from 1850 to 1890. While many studies have explored the theoretical underpinnings of demographic transition, particularly in Europe, there is a notable gap in research focused specifically on the United States during this period. The authors aim to fill this gap by analyzing the fertility effects of improved market access, measured by exposure to the expanding railway network.



The paper introduces the broader context of demographic transition, highlighting the ongoing debate among economists and demographers about the factors influencing fertility decline. The authors propose a unified approach, examining the impact of market access on demographic trends, particularly focusing on the effects of railways on economic activity and specialization. The theoretical model suggests that changes in fertility mainly occur through extensive margins, with households shifting toward occupations associated with lower fertility rates. The empirical results indicate that increased market access led to declining fertility, with the effect more pronounced in regions initially characterized by higher manufacturing intensity, suggesting shifts in comparative advantage.

“Fertility and the Education of African Parents and Children” *Dr. Tom Vogl (University of California, San Diego)*



Through this research, Dr. Tom Vogl uncovers relationships between fertility, adult education, and child education amongst 33 African countries around beginning of fertility declines during 20th century. This paper reproduces the commonly held belief that fertility declines go hand-in-hand with rising female education, while introducing empirical evidence that the relationship between fertility and children’s education is much weaker, at least among Sub-Saharan African countries.

As Dr. Vogl finds that areas with falling fertility are not per-se the areas with rising school enrollment but are likely to be areas with weak, rising grade attainment, this research provides some empirical foundation for the relationships between fertility rates, women’s education, and children’s education among Sub-Saharan African countries. This work opens avenues for further research into the causal mechanisms at play between fertility and education.

**“Competition in the Black Market:
Estimating the Causal Effect of Gangs in Chicago”**
Dr. Jesse Bruhn (Brown University)



Using novel police department data showing geospatial distribution of gangs within Chicago over time, Dr. Jesse Bruhn quantitatively describes the economic and social consequences of gang introduction on Chicago neighborhoods. The paper explores the economic consequences of gang activity, finding that gangs reduce the number of homes listed for sale, decrease home prices, and lower median household income. Delving into the dynamics of gang territory, the study reveals the existence of many small gangs with fluid boundaries, and violence is found to be volatile at the borders of gang territory.

In addition to the extensive empirical analyses present in this paper, Dr. Bruhn conducted detailed field work, spending nights on the corner with gang members and Chicago PD, to better understand the relationship between gangs and the area that they inhabit. The paper goes on to show that the increased crime rates are not driven by changes in policing behavior and argues that the mechanism for these effects is the operation of illegal markets by the gangs.

“Who Benefits from Meritocracy?”
Dr. Diana Moreira (University of California, Davis)



Using transcribed local administrative paper records, Dr. Diana Moreira evaluates the impact of the 1883 Pendleton Act on lower socio-economic status individuals' inclusion among government positions. Dr. Moreira finds that, after the Pendleton Act and its resulting application exam for certain federal positions, there was a reduction in applicants from low-SES backgrounds and the benefits went largely to the upper-middle class. This research adopts a difference-in-differences strategy and leverages newly compiled data on the socioeconomic backgrounds of government employees. The historical context of the Pendleton Act provides a unique lens to analyze the short- and long-term consequences of employing exams in the public sector.

The paper shows that meritocracy has its caveats when considering individuals' access to schooling and connections to officials. With valuable insights for discussions related to personnel policies, workplace inequality, and recruitment exams, Dr. Moreira's research illustrates that more impersonal selection criteria do not guarantee increased visibility and the hiring of underrepresented groups.

“Convictions, Incarceration, and Earnings in an Event Study Framework”

Dr. Brittany Street (University of Missouri)



In this research paper, Dr. Brittany Street uncovers the causal effect of encounters with the US criminal justice system on individuals' labor market outcomes. Though a widely studied topic, this work distinguishes itself with its careful focus on characterizing offenders' employment profiles, which allows for more accurate estimates of the true effect of convictions or incarcerations. The work uses high-quality matched data from the Criminal Justice Administrative Records Systems (CJARS) for individuals who became incarcerated, linked with W-2s and self-reported ACS responses for a causal analysis of the effects of criminal justice system encounters on affected individuals' future employment and earnings.

Dr. Street finds that after incarceration and a return to formal employment, those who avoid recidivism experience increases in earnings--contrary to past compelling evidence of the opposite. To verify her results, Dr. Street introduces an event study framework for the first time in this study area of criminal justice and includes additional administrative data for robustness checks.

“Trade, Tariffs, and Inequality”
Dr. James Lake (University of Tennessee)



Dr. James Lake and colleagues construct new data on US tariffs between 1972 and 1988, a previously unstudied time frame with the lack of aggregated tariff data. The data reveal a distinctive two-phase liberalization, with specific tariffs contributing to an “accidental liberalization” between 1972 and 1979. By using a novel algorithm which produces an aggregated national tariff dataset, his team then investigates the evolution of US tariffs before and after the Tokyo Round of the GATT. One goal of Dr. Lake’s work is to make this annual product-level import tariff data publicly available, so that other researchers can study these same sorts of questions.

This paper argues that much of the economic impact of trade on the U.S. was felt pre-1990, and these years demand more attention from researchers in understanding the impacts of U.S. tariffs on labor market outcomes. Dr. Lake and colleagues point to the role that industry-level tariff cuts played in driving income inequality as skill-intensity increased in these same industries, highlighting another area under the influence of trade-induced skill-biased technological change.

“Reconstruction-Era Education and Black-White Inequality” (Dr. Dan Jones, University of Pittsburgh)



Dr. Dan Jones and his colleague use data on teachers in Black schools during the US Reconstruction era, along with linked census records to examine the effects of exposure to education on Black students' life outcomes. The research finds that Black children exposed to greater educational opportunity during this time had increased literacy rates and higher occupational standing as adults.

Furthermore, Dr. Jones finds that these individuals' children (specifically sons) were more likely to be of higher occupational status than the sons of those who were not exposed to greater educational opportunity, offering an argument for the impact that Reconstruction-era policies, had they not ended soon after they began, would have had on narrowing Black-White outcome gaps that have persisted into the 21st century.

“Does Physicians’ Female Socialization Influence Female Patients’ Health?” *(Dr. Tianyi Wang, University of Toronto)*



Looking at Denmark and their general practitioners, what kinds of occupational effects do having daughters have on the outcomes of female patients? By controlling for the number of children within a family, Dr. Tianyi Wang and his colleagues utilize the gender of the ensuing child being random and not influenceable to then investigate the differences in female patient outcomes between the doctors whose next child was a girl against those whose next child was a boy.

Dr. Wang and colleagues have found that increased female socialization (through the avenue of having an additional daughter) does positively affect female patient outcomes, decreasing female cancer mortality rates and increasing the likelihood of administering pap smear procedures beyond the mandated requirement. These results provide empirical evidence of the important role that family environment plays in physician occupational responsibilities and open further research paths into the causal mechanisms at work here.

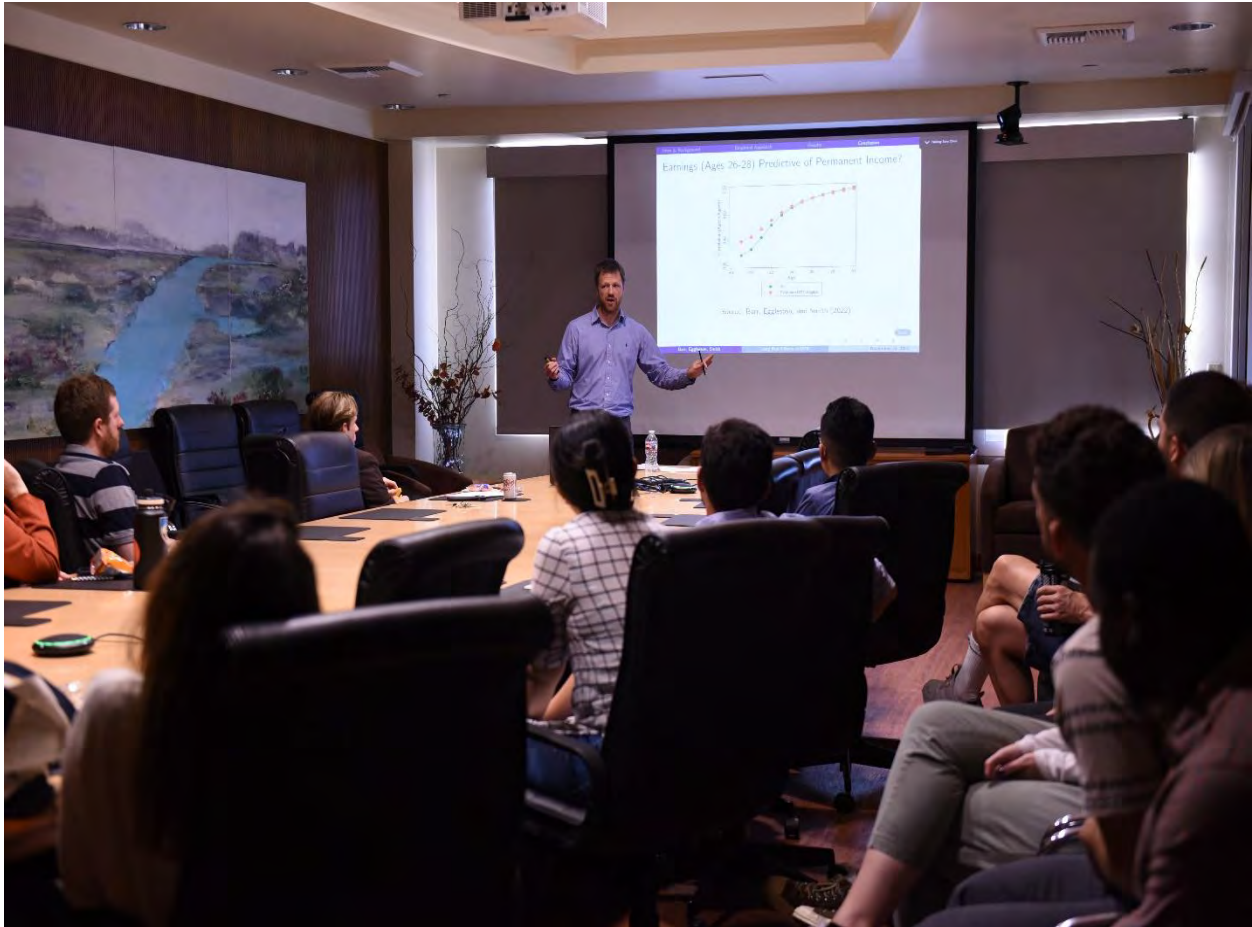
“The Gift of a Lifetime: The Hospital, Modern Medicine & Mortality” (Dr. Alex Hollingsworth, The Ohio State University)



In this paper, Dr. Hollingsworth and colleagues seek to understand the impacts that the Duke Endowment's early 20th century effort to revamp the North Carolina hospital system had on residents and future patients. More broadly, the research explores the relationships between modern medicine and its hospitals and the transition toward today's society where medicine plays such a central role, along with the relationship between hospitals and mortality.

The results provide evidence that access to these Duke-supported hospitals reduced infant mortality by 10%, and these effects persisted into later life with a 9% reduction in mortality between ages 56 and 65. Mortality reductions were larger for Black infants than White infants, as Dr. Hollingsworth and colleagues' research suggests that the Duke Endowment hospital-revamp effort reduced the Black-White infant mortality gap by one-third.

“The Heterogenous Long Run Effects of Universal Pre-K” (Dr. Andrew Barr, Texas A&M University)



Here, Dr. Andrew Barr dives into the world of publicly provided preschool education in Oklahoma and Georgia during the late 20th century. When looking amongst the entire population, these public pre-kindergarten programs seem to offer little to no impact on average earnings later in life, but once separating the main sample into relevant groups, the researchers show that this average effect masks the effects felt by each group.

Dr. Barr and colleagues provide evidence that these public programs slightly worsened outcomes for the lowest income group, many of whom were previously receiving pre-kindergarten support through other, better public programs like Head Start that switched over to this universal pre-k program. Families just above the Head Start eligibility who now have newfound access to preschool education, on the other hand, earned much more later in life as a result of the program, illustrating the potential interesting relationships that may hide behind a seeming null effect.

“Culpable Consumption: Shame & Water Conservation” (Dr. James Sears, Michigan State University)



James Sears explores the effects of pricing changes and policy enactments made by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD, Alameda and Contra Costa counties) to combat the 2011- 2017 California drought. He specifically studies how households react to the three types of policies enacted from roughly July 2015 to March 2016 by the water district and their spillovers during the Excessive Use Penalty Ordinance (EUP). (1) Moral Suasion: warning letters citing potential financial penalties and public disclosure requirements sent to high-usage households should they not actively conserve water. (2) Public shame: reports of water conservation violators via the California Public Records Act, and local news also exposing violators to the wider public. (3) Price effects: fines from the EUP, which included penalty fees and drought surcharges in addition to the standard marginal pricing and service charge structure.

Specifically, in estimating short run and long run changes in water price elasticities of demand due to the changes in prices from the policy enactment, Sears finds large negative effects in response to the shocks. Interestingly, these effects eventually revert to the pretreatment means within a year, suggesting a short-run outlooks on moral obligations to conserve and perceptions of shame, which poses a great policy problem for long-run conservation efforts.

“Taking a Chance on Workers: Evidence on the Effects and Mechanisms of Subsidized Employment from an RCT”

(Dr. Patrick Turner – University of Notre Dame)



Here, Dr. Patrick Turner and colleagues examine a supported work program's impact on employment and earnings over four years. The program, ReHire Colorado, coupled subsidized employment with comprehensive case management services, aiming to accelerate participants' return to the workforce and enhance their overall labor market prospects. Researchers found that program access led to 21% employment rate increases and a 16% increase in earnings, with lasting improvements in employment stability, job quality, and well-being. The results support the program's emphasis on fostering good job matches, match quality being an important factor. Machine learning showed no treatment effect heterogeneity, supporting the idea that subsidized employment programs emphasizing permanent job matches benefit a wide range of low-wage workers.

The paper contributes to the understanding of active labor market programs by evaluating a widely applicable model that achieves notable success in re-employing workers with significant barriers. The study's comprehensive examination, including impacts on employment, job quality, and well-being, and the techniques used to assess heterogeneity, distinguishes it from existing literature on subsidized employment programs.

THE CENTER FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS & POLICY STUDIES

FALL 2023 SEMINAR SERIES

Co-Sponsored by the Department of Economics

Thursdays @ 2:00PM-3:15PM
Finch Conference Room (AL660)



August 24
Melanie Guld
Economic Demography
University of Central Florida



August 31
Tom Vogl
Labor Economics
University of California, San Diego



September 7
Jesse Bruhn
Labor Economics
Brown University



September 14
Diana Moreira
Labor Economics
University of California, Davis



September 28
Brittany Street
Economics of Crime
University of Missouri

October 5

James Lake

International Economics
University of Tennessee



October 12

Dan Jones

Public Economics
University of Pittsburgh



October 26

Tianyi Wang

Political Economy & Economic History
University of Toronto



November 2

Alex Hollingsworth

Health Economics
Ohio State University



November 16

Andrew Barr

Labor Economics
Texas A&M University



November 30

James Sears

Environmental Economics
Michigan State University



December 7

Patrick Turner

Labor & Development Economics
University of Notre Dame



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The Fall 2023 Seminar Series is supported, in part, by the SDSU Student Success Fee and external funding from CHEPS

CHEPS AFFILIATES CONFERENCE TRAVEL

Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO) – Copenhagen, Denmark

During the summer Dr. Joseph J. Sabia and Caterina Muratori traveled to Europe together to present their latest studies at international conferences. At the beginning of June, they attended the Society of Economics of the Household Conference (SEHO) in Copenhagen, presenting “Does Physician Conscience-Based Refusal to Perform Abortions Increase Self-Induced Abortion? Evidence from Italian Provinces” (Caterina Muratori) and “In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicide” (Joseph Sabia, Benjamin Hansen & Jessamyn Schaller).



European Society of Population Economics (ESPE) – Belgrade, Serbia



One week later, the two also attended the 36th Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE) in Belgrade. Caterina Muratori presented the project “The Effect of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings” (Joint with Dhaval M. Dave, Catherine MacLean, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia) and Professor Sabia chaired a health policies session which included research on soda taxes, alcohol

related hospital stays, and the Center’s very own work on anti-vaping policies.

Western Economic Association International – San Diego, California

Back in the U.S. joined by Dr. Yang Liang, the CHEPS team participated in the 98th Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International (WEAI) in home sweet home, San Diego. Caterina presented the new joint study with Dhaval M. Dave, Catherine MacLean, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia on “The Effect of ENDS Taxes on Substance Use”, and Dr. Liang presented “Preferential Liberalization: China’s Foreign Investment Regulation Reform and its Post-WTO-Accession Export Surge” (Joint with Mary Lovely and Hongsheng Zhang) and participated as a discussant in several other international trade related sessions.

European Law & Economics Association (EALE) – Berlin, Germany

This year’s EALE conference was held in September at the Freie Universität for paper and keynote sessions, and Humboldt-Universität for the concluding reception and panel. Here, Dr. Sabia presented “Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence From E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities” (Joint with Dhaval M. Dave, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Matthew Braaksma, and Yang Liang). This study is the first to study the effects of ENDS taxes on teenage and young adult drinking and alcohol-related traffic fatalities. The



implications of this paper are important for policy makers to carefully assess the overall costs and benefits of anti-ENDS use efforts, as the study finds that in the United States, a \$1 increase in ENDS taxes reduces teen vaping by 5.4 percentage points (or approximately 24 percent), and 2 fewer alcohol-related traffic fatalities per state-year for 16-to-20-year-olds.

UCLA – Los Angeles, California: *Christian’s Experience*

In October, I, Christian Pryfogle, traveled to Los Angeles to attend a UCLA Health Economics presentation featuring Dr. Sabia. I took a charter bus all the way from Old Town San Diego to LA, and a rideshare from the bus terminal to the university (a 6-hour trip; LA traffic is no joke!). The seminar was being held at the Fielding School of Public Health, just on the fringes of the campus near Westwood. Dr. Sabia presented two papers. The first was “Can Anti-Vaping Policies Curb Drinking Externalities? Evidence From E-Cigarette Taxation and Traffic Fatalities” (Joint with Dhaval M. Dave, Johanna Catherine Maclean, Matthew Braaksma, and Yang Liang). A key conversation with the audience principally covered whether vaping is a compliment or a substitute

to both marijuana/cigarette smoking and alcohol drinking. The second paper Dr. Sabia presented was “In-Person Schooling and Youth Suicides: Evidence from School Calendars and Pandemic Era School Closings” (Joint with Benjamin Hansen, and Jessamyn Schaller), and the attendees were



audibly surprised to see the pattern of increases in teen suicide rates during in-person schooling.

It was an awesome trip overall to have been able to experience the dynamics of another school's seminar, see Dr. Sabia present for the first time, and afterwards, get to know CHEPS affiliate Gokhan Kumpas while exploring the beautiful UCLA campus at night.

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) – Atlanta, Georgia



Early in November, Professors Sabia and Yang, postdoc associate Caterina Muratori, and the Center's new research assistants, Tony Chuo and Christian Pryfogle attended the four day Fall 2023 Annual Public Policy Analysis & Management Conference (APPAM) in Atlanta.

Dr. Yang Liang presented his paper on "More Robots, More Crime? Evidence from Industry-Specific Technological Shocks" (joint with D. Mark Anderson and Joseph Sabia) in an economics of crime panel on Friday morning.

Later that day, Dr. Sabia presented “Do Recreational Marijuana Laws Reduce Racial Disparities in Arrests and Health?” (Joint with Zach Fone and Gokhan Kumpas) in a panel focusing on racial disparities in the criminal justice system. On Saturday, Caterina presented “The Effect of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Employment and Earnings” (Joint with Dhaval M. Dave, Catherine MacLean, Yang Liang, and Joseph J. Sabia) in a panel featuring work on marijuana legalization.

APPAM offered many sessions, luncheons, and socials for professionals to meet and present their work. Other sessions attended by the CHEPS affiliates included panels on housing prices, minimum wages, welfare reform, measuring poverty, e-cigarette studies, and many more. For current students and those entering the job market APPAM also hosted a career and PhD fair where participants could meet with representatives of over 50 employers and universities from all over the world. University departments in attendance presented doctoral offerings relating to all things public: policy, affairs, administration, and even health.



Southern Economic Association – New Orleans, Louisiana: *Tony's Experience*

Attended by CHEPS Director Dr. Joseph Sabia, myself - Tony Chuo - and hundreds of economists and Ph.D. students, this year's Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting held in mid-November was a great weekend of research presentation and exposure to outside work. With session topics ranging from financial crime recidivism to corruption and inequality to the econometrics of triple differences in differences, I was able to get a glimpse at the extremely wide areas of study possible within economics. There was work presented by Dr. Brandyn Churchill (joint with Dr. Sabia) on the effectiveness of anti-bullying-laws on teen mental health, by Ph.D. student Alejandro Abarca on hot spot policing in Costa Rica, and by Dr. Kasey Buckles on the extensive Census Tree Project, just to name a few memorable presentations that I attended.



I seemed to be at the frontier of economic research, and in addition to being surrounded by cutting-edge work, I was able to be a part of the community of graduate students and practicing academic economists. Everyone was gracious with their time and knowledge, willing to share their experiences in this field. These kinds of social interactions and their importance can be underestimated, I think, and having attended these conferences this semester, my interest, curiosity, and excitement for a future in economics has only deepened.

Research Assistant (RA) Meetings

Every week, CHEPS RAs meet with Dr. Sabia and the research affiliates to discuss their current and upcoming work, the next seminar or conference to travel to, and all other processes necessary to keep the Center running at full capacity. Most importantly, however, this meeting is essential to the research lifecycle. Here, RAs present their progress made over the previous week on their current projects. The researchers challenge each other by asking pressing questions and working towards comprehensive answers in a collaborative manner. For the RAs, this is a great benefit to building their research potential by developing the critical thinking necessary for asking research questions, learning the collaborative skills to answer them effectively, and being exposed to the cutting-edge techniques in econometrics to verify their results. Additionally, the student affiliates becoming better students as the meetings provide an invaluable source of knowledge thanks to the Socratic nature of their conversations with Dr. Sabia and the other researchers. For those who are pursuing higher education and eventually a Ph.D. or futures in research, this proves to be an indispensable experience to reaching the next stages of their careers.

Because of both their ongoing individual research and the collective efforts of those involved, the affiliates grow in unison as professionals. Through this constant collaboration between the researchers and the RAs, the CHEPS affiliates develop an increasing sense of camaraderie, and turn the team into a family.



2023 CHEPS STATA/R Bootcamp

Two weeks before the beginning of the 2023 fall semester, incoming 1st-year SDSU MA students and CHEPS RAs Tony Chuo, Christian Pryfogle, and Cassidy Eiler attended the weeklong CHEPS Stata and R coding boot camp. Hosted by CHEPS affiliates and past RAs Russell Leonard and Kyutaro Matsuzawa—current PhD candidates at the University of California, Irvine, and the University of Oregon, respectively—the purpose of the boot camp was to orient the students for a research-intensive experience as RAs at the CHEPS and to prepare them for their ECON 650 course, statistical tools for economics.

On day one, the students joined a small seminar featuring the University of Zaragoza's Dr. Jose Alberto Molina, presenting the benefits of active commuting to work. Dr. Joseph Sabia then introduced the students to the Center for Health Economics and Policy Studies and made clear the importance of dedication and hard work. The students then began learning best practices for coding, how to be a careful data manager by maintaining an organized file storage and naming structure, not double checking but at least triple checking work, all to eventually become a good researcher. Next, they explored a variety of widely used datasets like the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) & Youth Risky Behaviors Survey (YRBS) collected by the CDC, the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER) for cancer statistics, and the Merged Outgoing Rotation Groups (MORG) and Annual Social and Economic Supplements (ASEC) of the Current Population Survey (CPS) for labor statistics like earnings and employment.

Then, the students quickly jumped into learning about the basics of using Stata and cleaning data using .do files. Students learned how to generate new continuous and categorical or binary variables, merge datasets on common identifiers, collapse data to aggregate by different levels of granularity, and reshape data between long and wide formats. To finish up with Stata, the students utilized statistical tools for running linear and non-linear regressions and they added packages to present results onto estimates tables in a manner suitable for a published paper.

On their last day, the students learned the same procedures but in the R programming language utilizing the R Studio development environment; they used procedures for installing user-written packages and eventually cooled down with a fun R data frame coding exercise to solidify the equivalent uses of R statistical software as opposed to Stata. To end the boot camp, the students were given as a final assignment a project to replicate Russ' paper on whether Vertical ID laws effectively curb teen drinking using the YRBS.

The experience was fast paced yet a deep dive into the key uses of statistical software for economic research such that students learned much and were ready for the coming school year. Thank you for the boot camp, Russ and Kyu!

Current Research Assistant (RA) Work



Policy Data Collection

To begin the semester, CHEPS RAs Tony Chuo and Christian Pryfogle took on the important, but sometimes underappreciated task of policy data collection. With the center's focus on health policy-related research, accurately obtaining up-to-date information on public policy throughout the nation is integral to future research projects. Delving into the world of recreational marijuana laws, e-cigarette online sales bans, good Samaritan drug overdose laws, and much more, the Center's research assistants collected new policy, updated existing laws, and ensured the validity of previously obtained public policy information. They used a multitude of sources, ranging from news articles to paper scans of state or local laws and regulations.

There were lots to learn from the experience, and current RA Christian was amazed by the sheer amount of information available. "It was a shock at first, you just don't realize how much information is out there until you dive into it yourself. I have a new level of appreciation for high-level data collection and management," he said. Tony emphasized the importance of being careful with your work, "Lots of double checking is key, especially since these policies are so central to what we're doing here," he said. The two learned important project management and communication skills with this first project, and they quickly took what they learned—that every good project starts with good data collection—onto future work for the Center. Some more recent data collection includes flavored vape and menthol cigarette bans, and TANF disbursement regulations like maximum allotment and drug testing.

E-Cigarette Taxes and LGBTQ Youth

In the past few years, states around the US have begun to adopt a new kind of tax. Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) taxes have been on the rise across the nation, and with them, a growing awareness of the potential negative health consequences of the devices. Outwardly marketed as tools for smoking cessation, these products have unfortunately found their way into the hands of youth; in 2019, around 30% of high schoolers reported having vaped in



the past 30 days, according to the Youth Risky Behavior Surveillance System administered by the CDC. In this project, our researchers evaluate the effects of these ENDS taxes on the behavior of the youth across the nation, specifically looking into the differences in response behavior among heterosexual and non-heterosexual youth.

CHEPS RA Tony Chuo has played a crucial role in the early stages of this project. “Being familiar with the research question makes a huge difference,” he said. “I can stay focused on the right things once I actually understand the project and its main questions.” Handling much of the early, diagnostic regressions, Tony presented models which informed the Center on further work, as well as the more exploratory research regarding avenues for potential spillover onto non-vaping behavior. Also he has been working on event study models that break down effects of these taxes by relative time since enactment, and has begun to develop the toolkit central to applied microeconomic work.

Minimum Wages and Means-Tested Public Benefits

Building on two previous CHEPS projects: “Minimum Wages and Poverty: New Evidence From Dynamic Difference-In-Differences Estimates” (Richard V. Burkhauser, Drew McNichols, Joseph J. Sabia) and “The Effects Of Minimum Wage Increases On Means-Tested Government Assistance” (Thanh Tam Nguyen, Joseph J. Sabia), the goal of this project is to leverage additional years of Current Population March Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC), and minimum wage variation, to see its effects on welfare receipt. Specifically, it uses the preferred model from the first paper, which includes controls that places emphasis on the household as the main resource sharing unit and accommodates for longer run minimum wage effects. It looks at the outcomes of means-tested public benefit receipt from the second paper: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF, previously ACDF before welfare reform), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP,

commonly known as food stamps), the Special SNAP for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC), Subsidized Rent/Affordable housing, Medicaid, and the Free /Reduced Price School Lunch program.

This is an interesting project for CHEPS RA Christian Pryfogle, considering that it already had been worked on by previous RAs at the Center. Kyutaro Matsuzawa is currently helping him with the event studies, and he has inherited much of the other necessary code to model the new version on. “This really makes clear the benefit of well written code, not just in syntax but in the simple things like commenting, but also in the complex things like a project’s file structure,” notes Christian. Although he has a great background in coding, he is taking advantage of this opportunity to re-learn the importance of best practices, “Your code should effectively communicate both how to use it, and the overall goal of script.”

Predictive Scheduling Laws effects on Labor Market Outcomes

Like the minimum wage and public benefits project, this project is following previous work done by the Center, but updating the data range to include exciting new policy variation that holds many labor market implications to analyze. Utilizing the monthly CPS for employment measures and outgoing rotation groups for earnings, we are looking to estimate the effect of predictive scheduling laws on the effected industries and local labor markets within identified metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs, now known as Core-based statistical area, CBSAs). These laws restrict the ability of employers to change employee schedules within a certain timeline. Berkeley and Los Angeles in 2023, and Chicago and Philadelphia in 2020, were the latest cities to enact predictive scheduling laws, covering retail, hospital, and food industry employees.



CHEPS Research Affiliates and Fellows

Faculty Research Fellows



Audrey Beck
San Diego State University

Audrey Beck is an Associate Professor of Sociology at San Diego State University. She received her B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her Ph.D. in sociology with specializations in demography and stratification from Duke University. Following graduation, she was a postdoctoral fellow in the Office of Population Research and Center for Research on Child Wellbeing at Princeton University. While there, her primary focus was the impact of union formation and dissolution on child health, parenting, and child school readiness. She first came to San Diego State University as a postdoctoral research associate before joining the Sociology Department as an Assistant Professor in 2015. Her work uses a variety of demographic methods to understand race, ethnicity, and nativity disparities in health. Recent work, with colleagues at USC, explores a) the impact of neighborhood economic conditions and crime on birth outcomes and b) the collection of police-involved death data and the contextual and policy correlates of such deaths. Dr. Beck has received a number of grants and fellowships and has published her research in *Demography*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Journal of Gerontology*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Sociology of Education*, and the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, among others.



Hao Fe
San Diego State University

Dr. Hao Fe is an Assistant Professor of Economics at San Diego State University. Her research combines econometric models with emerging big data sources to create novel causal inference approaches. My areas of interest include child development, education policy, the economics of crime, social networks, and health economics. My recent project implements a newly developed identification strategy to estimate the effect of children's time allocation on their skill formation. I am currently investigating the causal impact of social networks on consumer behaviors, and the relationship between neighborhood change and crime. One of her working papers has been recently published in a high quality, peer-reviewed journal, the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*.



Shoshana Grossbard
Scholar in Residence
San Diego State University

Shoshana Grossbard is Professor Emerita of Economics at San Diego State University and Research Fellow at the Institute of Labor Economics. She is also a member of the Family Inequality Network at the University of Chicago. Shoshana is a leading scholar in the economics of marriage and the family. Her work has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Political Economy*, the *Economic Journal*, and the *Journal of Population Economics*. She serves as president of the Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO).



Yang Liang
San Diego State University

Yang Liang is an Assistant Professor of Economics and Assistant Director of the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University. Liang is an applied economist specializing in labor and international economics. His research focuses on how firms and workers respond to globalization and market integration. His work has been published in peer reviewed journals including *Journal of Health Economics*, *JAMA: Pediatrics*, *The World Economy*, and *China Economic Review* as well as book chapters and policy briefs with the Upjohn Institute and Peter Institute for International Economics. Liang received his Ph.D. in Economics from Syracuse University.



Brandy Lipton
University of California, Irvine

Dr. Brandy Lipton is an applied microeconomist specializing in health economics and public policy. Her core interests lie in exploring the connections between health care policies and both health and economic outcomes. The majority of her work leverages state-level variation in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program policies. For example, recent research has explored the effects of optional benefits in Medicaid on adult health and labor market outcomes. Ongoing work is examining whether adult Medicaid benefits affect outcomes among children of adult enrollees.

After completing her graduate studies in economics at Northwestern University, Dr. Lipton spent several years working for health agencies within the federal government. Her work involved analysis

of nationally representative household surveys fielded by these agencies to address a variety of health and public policy topics. This work was published in high quality peer-reviewed economics and policy journals including *the Journal of Health Economics* and *Health Affairs*.

Dr. Lipton is currently Associate Professor in the Department of Health, Society, and Behavior at the University of California, Irvine.



Thiago de Lucena
San Diego State University

Dr. Thiago de Lucena is an assistant professor in the Department of Economics at San Diego State University. Before joining SDSU, he received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Davis. His main concentration is Applied Microeconomics with research interests in Development Economics, Labor Economics, and Political Economy.



Jacob Penglase
San Diego State University

Jacob Penglase is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Boston College. Prior to joining SDSU, he was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Bordeaux and an associate economist at Analysis Group. His research focuses on measuring poverty and individual well-being. His past work has examined consumption inequality among children in the context of child fostering in Malawi. More recent research studied the relationship between poverty and household size in Bangladesh. His work has appeared in *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, and *Economic Development and Cultural Change*.

Faculty Affiliates



Prashant Bharadwaj
University of California, San Diego

Prashant Bharadwaj is a Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Yale University. Prashant's research interests are in development and labor economics, focusing on the interactions between early childhood health, gender, and education. He is also a Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and holds research affiliations at the Center for Effective Global Action, the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development, and the Centre for Economic Policy Research. Prashant is co-editor at *the Journal of Human Resources* and an associate editor at the *Journal of Development Economics*.



Jeffrey Clemens
University of California, San Diego

Jeffrey Clemens is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of California, San Diego. He is also a Faculty Research Fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is currently an associate editor at the *Journal of Health Economics* and *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. He has previously held visiting positions at Stanford University and the University of Texas at Austin. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 2011 and his B.A. from Harvard College in 2005.



Zach Fone
United States Air Force Academy

Zach Fone is an Assistant Professor and Analyst for the Office of Labor and Economic Analysis (OLEA) at the United States Air Force Academy. He is helping to build OLEA's profile as a trusted and respected source of military manpower analysis and labor economics research more broadly. His research interests span the economics of crime and punishment, sports economics, labor economics, and health economics. His work has been published in the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Journal of Law and Economics*, and the *Journal of Sports Economics*. Zach received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of New Hampshire and has been a CHEPS Research Affiliate since 2017.



Gokhan Kumpas

California State University Los Angeles

Gokhan Kumpas is Assistant Professor of Economics at California State University Los Angeles in the Department of Economics Statistics, where excels in teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels as well as advising multiple graduate theses. He received his B.A. in Economics at Izmir University of Economics and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Economics at the University of New Hampshire. His dissertation focused on The Spillover Effects of Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Violence Policies. His research interests include applied microeconomics, specifically health, risky behaviors, crime, and education, and is currently focusing on anti-bullying legislation, organ donations, public assistance programs, and mental health. His academic excellence was recognized in an outstanding mid-tenure performance review. Gokhan makes substantial contributions to the university by serving on the Sustainability Committee and the College of Business and Economics Student Affairs Committee. Gokhan will present and collaborate at the Eastern Association meetings in Boston this March.



Alex Chesney

United States Air Force Academy

Alex Chesney completed his Ph.D. in Economics at UC Davis in 2022 and now works full-time for the United States Air Force in Idaho. He received his master's degree in Economics from San Diego State University in 2012 and his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2011. Alex is interested in Public and Labor Economics and studying policies that impact military personnel and their dependents. His current research focuses on how active-duty military members make education investment decisions, and how these investments augment human capital formation. Dr. Chesney's recent research was published in the *Economics of Education Review*, and another paper is at the revise-and-resubmit stage at the *Journal of Public Economics*.



Rebecca Margolit

University of Notre Dame

Rebecca Margolit is a research associate at the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities at the University of Notre Dame. She is currently managing ten research projects, often supervising undergraduate research assistants and teaching them the same coding techniques that she learned at CHEPS. This has been a new step for her in her career and has sparked an interest in becoming an economics professor after completing her Ph.D.. Rebecca will be applying to Ph.D. programs this cycle. She has been very excited to work on a revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, along with her coauthors Kyutaro Matsuzawa, Dr. Joe Sabia and Dr. Daniel I. Rees.

CHEPS Research Affiliates



Brittany E. Bass

University of California-Los Angeles

Brittany Bass received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Irvine in 2019. She is an Economist for the Integrated Substance Abuse Programs in the Semel Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to joining UCLA, she was Assistant Professor of Economics at Sacramento State University. Brittany is a health economist who works on policies related to substance use disorder treatment. Her research has appeared in *Economics of Education Review*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, and the *Journal of Population Economics*.



Travis Freidman

U.S. Energy Information Administration

Travis Freidman is an economist at the U.S. Energy Information Administration specializing in applied macroeconomics. His research focuses on the effects of trade policy both historical and current. His research has appeared in the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.



Drew McNichols

Amazon

Drew McNichols received his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. He is currently an economist at Amazon, specializing in labor and public economics. His most recent work studies gender pay inequality, youth criminality, and marijuana legalization. Drew was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of California San Diego, and the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University.



Caterina Muratori

University of Torino

Caterina Muratori is a Postdoctoral Affiliate in Economics at the Center for Health Economics & Policy Studies (CHEPS) at San Diego State University. She received her MS from the University of Bologna in 2018 and Ph.D. from the University of Torino and the University of Reading in 2022. She is an applied microeconomist with research interests in health economics, gender economics, and economic demography. A thread connecting topics on which she is working is a focus on disparities in health and labor market outcomes.

SDSU MA Student Affiliates



Tony Chuo

MA Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Tony Chuo received his undergraduate degree in Economics at Texas A&M University. He is currently pursuing his M.A. in Economics at San Diego State University, and he plans to continue onto a Ph.D. in Economics in 2025. In his free time, Tony enjoys photography, music, and going on runs (though his knees might not).



Cassidy Eiler

MA Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Cassidy, a first-generation college graduate and community college transfer student, is currently navigating her first semester in the master's program at San Diego State, with an anticipated completion date in 2025. She envisions pursuing a PhD in the future to further deepen her passion, delving into topics such as underdeveloped countries, comparative systems, labor economics, education, and health economics. She enjoys playing piano, playing at her local pool hall with friends, and walking her seven-year-old Labrador named Charlie.



Christian Pryfogle

MA Candidate, Economics, San Diego State University

Christian graduated from San Diego State University in 2022 with a B.A. in Economics specializing in Quantitative Analysis and a minor in Statistics. Prior to returning to SDSU, he worked as an Underwriting Assistant at a local insurance firm, but quickly discovered his heart lies in academia. Upon completion of the M.A. degree, he hopes to continue to a Ph.D. program in Economics. As a hobby, Christian likes to solve math/coding puzzles.



Economics MA Students who frequently attend CHEPS Seminars (left to right): Will Swartz, Olivia Richard, Wayne McClellan, Blair Syakobbola, and Christian Pryfogle.

HIGHLIGHTS: CHEPS DOCTORAL AFFILIATES



Isaac Baumann

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

Isaac Baumann was a CHEPS research assistant from 2019 to 2020 and graduated from the SDSU MA program in 2021. His time spent as a CHEPS researcher and in attendance at CHEPS seminars helped inspire his interest in continuing to study economics. He is currently a data scientist at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where he conducts analyses on data science research projects with economic components. Isaac previously worked as a data analyst at CNN and The Walt Disney Co and is applying to economics Ph.D. programs for Fall 2024, targeting departments with a focus on applied microeconomics and policy analysis.

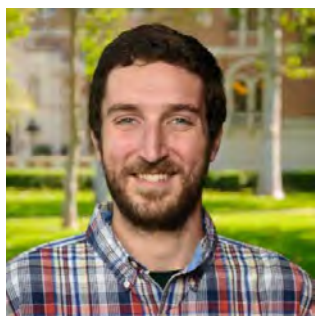


Alona Bilokha

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Business, Fordham University

Alona Bilokha received her MA in Economics from San Diego State University in 2018. She earned Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance and graduated with Honors in Advanced Business Analysis from Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College (CUNY). She has worked in Strategy and Policy (NYC Department of Education), Financial Strategy (Kenneth Cole), Investment Banking (UBS), and Credit Risk (Société Générale). Her research interests include public economics in the areas of health, education, and labor, among others. Additional interests include data science, predictive modeling, and machine learning. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Business at Fordham University.



Cal Bryan

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, Colorado State University

Cal graduated in 2013 with a B.S. degree in Bioenvironmental Sciences at Texas A&M University, where he minored in Economics. After graduation, he worked for a few years as a recreation technician and type 2 wildland firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado. He received his M.A. in Economics from SDSU in 2020. His interests include environmental policy, welfare economics, and the economics of outdoor recreation. Cal is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Agriculture and Resource Economics at Colorado State University. He has published in the *Journal of Health Economics*.



Andrew Dickinson

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, University of Oregon

Andrew Dickinson received his M.A. in Economics at San Diego State University in 2019. He is currently a fifth-year graduate student at the University of Oregon. He is interested in researching a wide range of applied microeconomics including health and public economics. Upon completion of his degree, he plans to one day become a university professor.



Toshio Ferrazares

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara

Toshio Ferrazares received his M.A. and B.A. in Economics from San Diego State University (SDSU). He is currently a fifth-year Ph.D. student in Economics at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is interested in researching macroeconomics, labor, and public finance. After obtaining his Ph.D., he hopes to pursue a career in teaching at the university level.



Russell Leonard

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, UC Irvine

Russ received his M.A. in Economics from SDSU and is currently attending the University of California, Irvine, for a Ph.D in economics. Along with Kyu, he helped develop the most recent cohort of CHEPS RAs with their coding skills in STATA and R data analysis and statistical packages.



Alicia Marquez

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

Alicia Marquez received her B.S. degree in Environmental Science with a minor in Economics and an M.A. degree in Economics from San Diego State University. She is currently attending the Policy Analysis and Management Ph.D. program at Cornell University. Her specific interests include natural resource economics, health economics, and public policy.



Kyutaro Matsuzawa

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, University of Oregon

Kyutaro, also known as Kyu, received his B.A. and M.A. in economics and B.S. in statistics from SDSU while working as CHEPS RA. He is currently a fourth year Ph.D. student at University of Oregon and is still working on ongoing research projects with CHEPS.



Cameron Milani

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, Claremont Graduate University

Cameron Milani received his B.A. in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles and his M.A. in economics from SDSU. He is currently attending the Ph.D. in Economics program at Claremont Graduate University. His interests include labor economics, economic development, and housing markets.



Niranjana Prasad

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, Université catholique de Louvain

Niranjana Prasad is a Ph.D. student at the Université catholique de Louvain, where she is an affiliate at their Center for Operations Research and Econometrics (CORE Institute). She received her MA in Economics from SDSU in 2018. She has previously worked with the World Bank, Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) and the Belgian diplomatic mission in India. During her stint with the World Bank, she worked on the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) and IRMA, on survey design and quantitative research for academic papers. She has also completed a Masters in Economics and International Financial Economics from the University of Warwick. She is currently a Ph.D. student at Université catholique de Louvain, and her areas of interest are Applied Econometrics, Health Economics, and Public Policy.



Samuel Safford

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Sociology, Cornell University

Samuel Safford received his B.A. in Applied Economics from California State University, Los Angeles (Cal State LA), his Master of Arts in Economics at SDSU, then his M.A. in Sociology at Michigan State University. He is currently attending Cornell University's Ph.D. program in Sociology. His interests include gender and sexuality, methodology, culture and knowledge, and social policy. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Human Resources*, *JAMA: Network Open*, and the *Journal of Health Economics*.



Yiying Yang

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD Candidate, Economics, Fordham University

Yiying Yang is a first-year Ph.D. student at Fordham University. Her first year has been an intellectually stimulating journey filled with diverse coursework, insightful discussions, and rigorous analytical challenges. Engaging in advanced economic theories, statistical models, and empirical research methodologies has expanded her understanding of economic principles and their real-world applications. And her collaboration with peers and professors on projects, seminars, and research initiatives has not only enhanced her academic prowess but also nurtured a deeper appreciation for the complexities within the field of economics. She has learned to better balance coursework, research, and extracurricular, providing her with a solid foundation to further explore and contribute to the ever-evolving landscape of economic theories and policies in the coming years of her academic pursuit.



Thanh Tam Nguyen

MA, Economics, San Diego State University

PhD, Economics, University of New Hampshire

Tam Nguyen received her Ph.D. in Economics at the University of New Hampshire in September 2023. Her research examines the effects of government policies on labor market outcomes, health outcomes, risky behaviors, and crime. She has published her work in the *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Health Economics*, *Economics and Human Biology*, and *Southern Economic Journal*.